GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:292
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
MISSION TO MOON
SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned `India`s Mission to Moon is likely to be adversely affected by the recent Columbia disaster` as appearing in the Rashtriya Sahara dated February 4, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AN PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER O STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Space programme will not be affected by the recent Columbia disaster. At present, India has no plan for manned space missions. The National Task Team Report on the proposed Indian mission to moon, which is now under review, is to send an unmanned spacecraft to orbit the moon at a height of 100 km, using India`s own Launch Vehicle (PSLV).The mission is proposed for the scientific objective of high-resolution remote sensing of lunar surface in visible, near-infrared, low-energy X-ray and high-energy X-ray spectra.

(c) Government will closely monitor the reports on the investigation.